

**REMARKS**

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on November 5, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claim 1 is amended, no claims are canceled, and claims 2-9 are added; as a result, claims 1-9 are now pending in this application.

**§102 Rejection of the Claims**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Passint et al.(U.S. Patent No. 5,581,705, hereinafter "Passint").

Passint describes a messaging facility that can be used to enable the passing of packets of data from one processing element to another in a globally addressable, distributed memory multiprocessor.

In contrast, Applicant teaches, and claims in amended claims 1-9, a system and method for routing packets through a router. The router includes a plurality of processing elements connected by a switch fabric. Virtual routers are defined for each subscriber and each virtual router is mapped to one or more processing elements. This is a much different teaching than that of Passint.

Applicant has reviewed each of the references cited by the Examiner. None of the references describe or suggest the system and method taught by Applicant and claimed in claims 1-9.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all the claims and issuance of a notice of allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6909 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

April 5, 2004

By

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Technology Center 2100

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5th day of April, 2004.

THOMAS F. BRENNAN

Name

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Signature